



The Fourth Annual

Natchez Literary Celebration

presents

The Three R's:

Readin', 'Ritin', and the River



Celebrating the influence of Old Natchez  
on the literature, history, and culture of  
Natchez and the Lower Mississippi River Valley

NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

JUNE 1-4, 1993

Sponsored by  
OSCAR LINCOLN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
and

THE NATCHEZ PARK SERVICE'S  
NATCHEZ NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK and  
THE NATCHEZ TRAILS PARKWAY

Mississippi History Newsletter  
County and City's support

#### A Note About Name-tags and Tickets

Name-tags with blue ribbons will admit featured and other full-package participants to all NLC events, including meals. Name-tags without ribbons admit participants to lectures and movies, by the day or for all four days. These are color-coded as follows: *cray* - all four days; *white* - Wednesday only; *gray* - Thursday only; *gold* - Friday only; *blue* - Saturday only. Participants without name-tags must present tickets for admission to individual events.

**NOTE:** Everyone attending a reception on June 2, June 3, and/or June 4 must present a reception ticket. Also, those attending the Magnolia Hall luncheon on June 4 must present a luncheon ticket indicating Group A or Group B.

#### Bookshop

A custom bookshop in the auditorium will be open Wednesday-Saturday, June 2-5, featuring books, articles, and memorabilia relating to this year's theme.

#### Message Center

A bulletin board is located in the auditorium lobby for messages. Please feel free to use it.

#### Telephone

A pay telephone is located in the east corridor of the auditorium and at the corner of Jefferson and Canal Streets on the Natchez Post-Office grounds.

#### Location of Events

All events will take place in the Natchez Municipal Auditorium unless otherwise noted.

#### Acknowledgments

This event is financially assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council, the Mississippi Arts Commission, and numerous other supporters. (Please see page 30.)



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# TRINITY TALES

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



305 S. COMMERCE NATCHEZ, MS 39120 601 - 445-8432

Mail: P. O. Box 1323 Natchez, MS 39121-1323

The Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray, Jr., Bishop  
The Rt. Rev. Alfred C. Marble, Jr., Bishop Coadjutor  
The Rev. Harry E. Allen, Jr., Rector  
The Rev. Dr. Eugene E. Kohlbecker, Assistant  
Vincent B. Bache, III, Organist/Choirmaster

Woodrow W. Allen, Senior Warden  
V. Jack Stephens, Junior Warden  
Philip E. Carby, Clerk  
John T. Green, Chancellor

JUNE 13 - JUNE 26, 1993

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN hosted a fund raising luncheon Wednesday, June 2nd and Thursday, June 3rd. Guests were participants in the Elderhostel program being held in Natchez June 1-6 in connection with the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration. The Elderhostel is sponsored in Natchez by Copiah-Lincoln Community College. More than 170 people toured Trinity Church and had a delicious lunch. Carolyn Winters and Page Parker did an outstanding job of co-chairing the event and had a number of ECW members helping with cooking and serving. Thanks ladies for an especially nice job!

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Cameron Abel.....News Editor  
Doreen Muzzi.....Reporter  
Jeraldine McDonald.....Composing/Circulation  
Debbie Reynolds.....Typesetting/Composing  
Cynthia Abbott.....Office Mgr./Page Layout

## Two from MDCC attend literary event

Rosemary Wright of Ruleville, a Political Science instructor at MDCC, and freshman Secondary Education major Paul Coreero of Greenwood, recently attended the fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration which was co-sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the Natchez Historical Park.

The three day event featured 16 noted authors and scholars whose lectures followed this year's theme "The Three R's: Readin', Ritin' and the River." Special guests included such well known Mississippians as Will Campbell, Elizabeth Spencer, Jerry Clower and Willie Morris.

The focal point of this year's celebration was the Mississippi River

upon whose waters have crested the literary inventions of generations of writers, according to one story.

Several conference topics dealt with the history of Southern blacks, according to Co-Lin English Department Coordinator, "Because a good deal of African-American culture is inextricably intertwined with the history of the Mississippi River."

One lecture, by Cambridge University visiting fellow Shelly Fisher Fishkin, was entitled "Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices" and was a new interpretation of Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" which some have criticized for its negative depiction of blacks.

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Name	SS#	Address
Dr. William S. Coker	552-38-5751	13082 Rosirito Place, PENSACOLA FL 32506
Dr. William Ferris	427-86-5768	1700 Jefferson Avenue, OXFORD MS 38655
Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin	041-46-6644	7706 Stonehaven Circle, AUSTIN TX 78731
Mr. Ernest Gaines	434-42-9853	942 Divisadero St., SAN FRANCISCO CA 94115
Dr. Thomas H. Gandy	439-12-1916	408 North Pearl St., NATCHEZ MS 39120
Dr. John Guice	425-64-6904	708 Huntindon Place, HATTIESBURG MS 39402
Mr. John Hoesterey	107-44-1122	7774 S. Elizabeth Wy., LITTLETON CO 80122
Mr. A.J. Jaeger	427-98-3377	802 Lakeland Dr., JACKSON MS 39216
Mr. Hillery Jacque Knight	428-98-8316	Faculty Apts., Tougaloo College TOUGALOO MS 39174
Dr. Charles Lowery	424-42-9100	609 Sherwood Rd., STARKVILLE MS 39762
Mr. Willie Morris	426-62-6123	408 East Northside Dr., JACKSON MS 39206
Dr. Peggy Prenshaw	426-80-7597	6961 S. Fieldgate Ct., BATON ROUGE LA 70808
Dr. Robert V. Remini	053-16-6185	215 Ninth St., WILMETTE IL 60091
Dr. David S. Sansing	428-54-1117	Rt. 1 Box 18, OXFORD MS 38655

Name	SS#	Address
Ms. Elizabeth Spencer	408-40-5268	402 Longleaf Drive, CHAPEL HILL NC 27514
Dr. Charles G. Vahlkamp	404-40-9826	875 Shadeland, DANVILLE KY 40422
Mr. Terrence Winschel	181-48-2349	324 Silver Creek Dr., VICKSBURG MS 39180

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*Derry  
Clower*

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Natchez, MS

# The Natchez Digest

Community Current Events, Faces and Places

July 1993

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## Outstanding Natchezian

### Carolyn Vance Smith is Outstanding!

She goes by the name Carolyn Vance Smith, but she could easily go by "Carolyn, the Wordsmith." This award-winning teacher, journalist, and author has been selected as the Natchez Digest's July Outstanding Citizen for her ability to ignite the creativity and leadership of her fellow Natchezians to establish the Natchez Literary Celebration (NLC). With the help of Copiah-Lincoln Junior College (Co-Lin) and the National Park Service, Smith has been able to pull together what the evaluator of the Mississippi Humanities Council (MHC), Dr. John Guice has deemed the best expenditure of Humanities Council money in the United States. Dr. Guice attributes the success of the NLC to its diversity. Others feel strongly about the celebration as well.

"I do not know of anything that has provided me with so much pleasure and satisfaction," states William F. Winter, former Governor of Mississippi.

"It is beyond question the best program this evaluator has been part of during many years of involvement in Mississippi and elsewhere," said Dr. Charles D. Lowery, former MHC evaluator of the '92 NLC.

"Congratulations to organizers of the '93 NLC for a successful program of unparalleled quality and variety," says Connie Taunton, Convention and Visitors Bureau.

In the past two years, Smith has been able to attain the largest grants from the Humanities Council that have ever been awarded. She credits Brad Chism for his expertise in writing grant applications.

The NLC does reach a wide range of people. Not only were great works of literature discussed among thousands of well-read people, but art contests were held for children of all ages. The NLC also had a special combination of an evening with Dr. William Ferris, Director of the Center for Southern Studies and Jerry Clower, Mississippi folklorist. People from all educational and socio-economic levels participated. "There is nothing more fun for these people than to listen, learn and discuss ideas. We are turning the corner on the couch potato generation. People of all levels come to the NLC to celebrate books, education, learning and knowledge.

Smith, again under the wing of Co-Lin, directs one of the hottest Elderhostel programs in the country. The NLC and the Elderhostel program both bring tourism dollars to Natchez during the slow season.

Smith draws energy for all of these activities through the support and encouragement of her husband, Marion, her children, Emily and William, her parents, Bill and Harriet, and her colleagues at Co-Lin. "I, Carolyn Vance



Photo by M & S Studios

Carolyn Vance Smith, Outstanding Natchezian.

Smith, am so deeply indebted that my colleagues at Co-Lin would not only be supportive of the activities that I enjoy, but to take the lead to make it succeed. Dean Travis Thornton and the Co-Lin Administration, Faculty, and students made this happen."

Carolyn Vance Smith is outstanding! Smith has authored and co-authored numerous books. Her latest include: Natchez: An Illustrated History, Natchez by Design, The Goat Castle Murder, Secrets of Natchez, and many, many more! ■ by Elizabeth Netterville

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Page 3A  
**'93 literary  
 fest to salute  
 the river**

■ More on the festival, 3A.

By JOAN GANDY  
 The Natchez Democrat

A salute to Mississippi River culture and lore will draw dozens of river scholars and tale-tellers to Natchez in June for the 1993 Literary Celebration.

"Readin', Ritein', and the River," June 2-6, will be the fourth annual event of its kind sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the National Park Service.

Describing it as an "educational extravaganza," organizer Carolyn Vance Smith of Co-Lin said on Monday the diversity of presentations, tours and entertainments provide something for every river aficionado's taste.

"The river has been a fascination for eons, and it is only natural so many creative people have  
 See RIVER, Page 3A

Rounding out a group of 16 lecturers during the five-day event will be tours and other entertainments, Smith said, including a concert of river tunes by the Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra.

"We're trying to pull the river in on different ways," Smith said. "One thing we're going to do is an art contest for students and adults."

The multi-cultural event has many angles, she said. "One of the

The Natchez Democrat, Natchez, Miss.

Tuesday, January 26, 1993

THE NATCH

"The river has been a fascination for eons, and it is only natural so many creative people have been inspired by it."

— Carolyn Vance Smith

exciting events will be the premiere of Mississippi ETV's "Return to the River" documentary," she said. The film was made during a 1991 trip on the steamboat Delta Queen that brought together literary figures such as Shelby Foote and the late Alex Haley, and other Southern artists such as musician B.B. King.

Other topics on the program for the literary celebration include a study of the Aaron Burr conspiracy, tall tales of the river, the era of steam travel on the river, the Civil War, and the story of Natchez's talented "black swan."

A grant of \$19,042 from the Mississippi Humanities Council will help with funding the event, along with \$2,000 from the Mississippi Arts Commission for the appearance of the symphony.

Tickets and more information are available by writing Natchez Box Office, P.O. Box 1264, Natchez, Miss. 39121. Information is available by telephone at 601-443-0353 or 1-800-862-3259.



*from p. 3A*  
**MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT:** Attending Monday's announcement ceremony were, from left, Dr. Billy Thames; Dr. Cora Norman, Justice Court Judge Mary Lee Toles, Durr Walker, Dr. Howell Garner, Stuart Johnson and Jim Barnett. *G.M.D.A.H.*

## Humanities council grant boosts festival

The 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration received a check for \$19,042 from the Mississippi Humanities Council on Monday.

At a press conference to announce details of the June 2-6 event, the council's executive director Dr. Cora Norman presented the check to celebration sponsors, which include Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the National Park Service.

Norman said the council is glad to support the event

again because the literary celebration, now in its fourth year, has been a model for bringing scholars together with those who are interested in literature.

"Scholars from around the country are now clamoring to get an invitation to the event," Norman said, adding that the grant to the celebration is the largest so far from the council's 1993 funds.

Co-Lin president Dr. Billy B. Thames is chairman of the humanities council.

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February 17, 1993

For immediate release in the Mississippi Community/Junior College  
newsletter

A Southern Phenomenon: The Natchez Literary Celebration

Reading isn't just alive. It's kicking! Nothing proves this more than the annual Natchez Literary Celebration, set for June 2-6, 1993. Hundreds are expected for this international conference, sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the National Park Service.

With the irresistible theme, "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River," the conference will feature lectures, concerts, tours, a Civil War re-enactment, films, writing workshops, ETV's "Return to the River" and more. For low-cost tickets, call Natchez Box Office (601) 445-0353 or 1-800-862-3259.

omit 2 people for Abb - Shaye Or/mrs Thomas, carried by Hostelskip #.

Jan 1, 1993

Matches Literary Celebration  
Total Attendance by Event

Page 1

Receipt Number	Name	ALL	-1-	-2-	-3-	-4-	-5-	-6-	-7-	-8-	-9-	-10-	-11-	-12-	-13-	-14-	-15-	-16-	-17-	-18-	-19-
93001	Mrs. GENE MATTHEW	3																			
93002	MIRIAM TOLLETT	1							1									1	1	1A	
93003	JANE C. BRYAN					1	1			1	1		1	1						1B	
93004	SUSAN BARNES					1															1
93005	ROTH MCWILLIAMS	1											3	3							
93006	FRANCES M. NASON	2											3					2	1A		
93007	MARNESS BACOT	1							1								1	1	1A		
93008	ADA SMITH	1																			
93009	POLLY M. BROWN	1							1								1				
93010	ANNIE L. MONET														2						
93011	MARIE FREEMAN	1							1								1	1	1A		
93012	MILDRED TAYLOR	1							1								1	1	1D		
93013	SANDRA D. SENEWELL	1																			
93014	SARAH B. MOOREHEAD	1																			
93015	BETHANN D. CULPEPPER					2						2		2							
93016	WARD JAMES					2	2					2	2	2	2						
93017	DR. CORA NORMAN	1							1	1	1						1	1	1A		
93018	BETTYE JO WOLFKEIL			2	2				2	2							2	2			
93019	CAMILLE TEDDER					2	2											2			
93020	CECELIA SLOAN																	1		1	
93021	MARGARET PATYON VELLER, W.D.	1																			
93022	ALLIE NINETTE MIDDLETON	1																			
93023	JULIE CHISH	2																			
93024	DIXIE BUTLER	2							2								2	2	2D		
93025	VIRGINIA SLOVER			2	2	2								1	2		2		1A	1	
93026	CASSANDRA GALES														1						
93027	ANNA SATERSTROM	2										2		2							
93028	BARBARA POTTER	1																			1

Jan 1, 1993

Matches Literary Celebration  
Total Attendance by Event

Page 2

Receipt Number	Name	ALL	-1-	-2-	-3-	-4-	-5-	-6-	-7-	-8-	-9-	-10-	-11-	-12-	-13-	-14-	-15-	-16-	-17-	-18-	-19-
93029	WAYNE POTTER					1															
93030	MARIAN K. PERRY													1	1						
93031	WAC FAYRE			2	2													2			
93032	BARBARA BRIGH			2	1	2	1							2							
93033	WILLIAM H. BUNCH, JR.	1							2	2										2B	
93034	ALTON G. BARKSTON								2								2	2	2D		
93035	GEORGE F. WALKER			1					2	2	2						2	2	2D		
93036	MS. FRANKIE WALTON WHITE																			1D	
93037	H.S. MCCLELLAN								2	2	2						2				
93038	BERGREN GILBERT			1		1			2								2	1	2D		
93039	LARRY DAY																	1	1D		
93040	BOB BREEDEN									2	2	2					2	2	2B		
93041	ANDR BRIDGES								1	1	1							1	1D		

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# Readin', 'Ritin' and the River

By SARAH SUE  
GOLDSMITH

Associate editor

**L**ittle-known characters were brought to life and well-known ones were discussed in new ways as "Readin', 'Ritin' and the River" got under way at this year's Natchez Literary Celebration — nearly a week of lectures, films and writing workshops hosted by Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez, Miss. To learn how the Mississippi River influenced the literature, history and culture of those who live along its banks, participants heard lectures on everything from the history of the steamboat and early Spanish government to Huckberry Finn and the Black Swan of Natchez, as well as talks by such established writers as Willie Morris and Ernest Gaines.

## Black Swan of Natchez

Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield was born a slave at Cherokee Mission in Natchez sometime around 1820. How a slave left her bondage and became a popular singer who performed at Buckingham Palace is one of the little-known success stories in black history.

David G. Sanning, history professor at the University of Mississippi, said Greenfield stands out in history for her remarkable artistic achievements in a time when few blacks had such an opportunity.

Her father was a native-born African and her mother, a Seminole Indian. She was owned by E.G. Roach, a Quaker from Philadelphia. Her gifted voice was discovered by a physician when Greenfield was very young. The Roaches divorced, and her benevolent mistress, who returned to Philadelphia, later granted her her freedom.

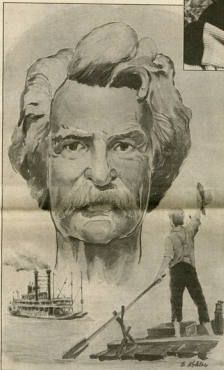
Not all the details of her life are known, but she did travel to Buffalo, N.Y., where Jenny Lind and Theresa Parrott were performing. It is assumed, said Sanning, that she was making the journey to hear them sing.

It is unknown whether she heard them, but she herself gave several private concerts in Buffalo and "quickly became a sensation and was given the name Black Swan that she was to carry for life," Sanning said.

Her public debut in Buffalo was on Oct. 22, 1851. She sang in Italian, French and English. "One review noted that her performance would help shape relations between white and black Americans," Sanning said. She was described as singing "with an absence of effort similar to Jenny Lind."

The black singer with the extraordinary vocal range — from basso to soprano — toured most of the states and planned to study voice with Emanuel Garcia in Paris.

Critics were high in their praise: "... deserves to be ranked with Jenny Lind ... province must shudder before the sublime gift ... remarkable instance of natural talent ... sounds 28 full notes." In Cincinnati and Columbus, however, friends were not allowed to attend Greenfield's performances, and she was



Author Shelley Fisher Fishkin explored the question, "Was Huck black?"

called the Black Crow by a local critic. In New York, blacks also were not allowed in the audience, and Frederick Douglass (black journalist and statesman) was critical of her for holding a concert to which her own brothers could not go, Sanning said.

"It could have been the most unpleasant performance of her career," Sanning said. "Critics disliked her low vocal range." They considered it too masculine. Women were expected to sing soprano. Off she went to London, accompanied by her manager, a relative of P.T. Barnum, who promptly abandoned her. Har-

riet Beecher Stowe heard of her predicament and took her under her wing. On May 19, 1854, Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield sang a command performance for Queen Victoria at Buckingham Palace.

There is no evidence that she studied voice with Garcia. No one knows what her activities were during the Civil War. In 1862, she and Frederick Douglass appeared together on a program on equality before the law.

Until her death in 1876, she gave private voice lessons to promising African-American students, Sanning said.



Ernest Gaines

"An interviewer asked me 20 years later what book had influenced me most. I didn't know. Maybe it was the book that wasn't written."

— Ernest Gaines

To enhance Sanning's lecture, songs of the type Greenfield would have sung in the mid-19th century were performed by Ellistine P. Holly, an associate professor of music at Jackson State University, who calls herself a "spiritual descendant" of Greenfield's.

## Was Huck black?

Southern readers have known for generations that Huckberry Finn spoke in the dialect of the blacks he grew up with. Mark Twain was accurate in conveying that dialect in his character's dialogue.

Lecturer and author Shelley Fisher Fishkin researched the subject and wrote a book about it: *Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices*. Her lecture quoted from and expanded upon ideas in her book.

The native New Yorker, who is on the faculty at the University of Texas in Austin, pointed out that "a key model for Huckberry Finn's voice was a black child" and that Twain "appreciated the creative vitality of African-American voices."

She also said that the young Mark Twain's favorite playmates were black children, and his favorite storytellers were black slaves.

"Something new happened in Huckberry Finn that had never happened before — a different kind of writing: clean, crisp vernacular, a book that talked."

Mark Twain wrote an article for *The New York Times* about "Sociable Jimmy," a little black boy he had met. Jimmy was "a bright, simple, guileless little darkey boy" who was sent to wait on Twain while he was staying at a hotel, probably in Paris, Ill., Fishkin said.

Twain wrote down what the child said because the language was so fresh and appealing.

"I suggest that Jimmy is the model for Huck," said Fishkin. "Jimmy and Huck have a lot in common linguistically. They are both naive, have had dreams about cruelty. They are unpretentious, uninhibited, easily impressed, supremely self-confident."

(Continued on Page 7)

## On The Agenda

### GUEST SPEAKER

Today we have with us Mrs. Carolyn Vance Smith, who will talk with us about the Fourth Annual Natchez Literary Celebration, of which she is chairman.

### SPRING PROJECT

Our spring service project, reading to day care students in the Co-Lin day care has been a great success. You may still volunteer to participate in this project. See Mendon.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the English Club will be April 14.

The Humanities Banquet will be April 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Co-Lin cafeteria. You must be present to receive a club T-shirt. Jennifer Wiggins designed the shirts, which will be teal green with fluorescent orange print. The English Club emblem will be in the front upper corner and on the back. Write your T-shirt size on the list being passed around.

## Recapping

### DOOR PRIZE

The door prize for this meeting is a green potted plant.

### LATELY...

Last night The National Shakespeare Co. performed their rendition of *The Comedy of Errors*. The performance was wonderful! Those who missed this opportunity truly missed out.

The Durr Walker European Study Tour Group leaves Jackson tomorrow at 2:25 PM. Let's hope they come home enlightened, having been to the marvelous home of the great English language!



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# DAILY CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

## Thursday, September 24

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
7:00 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting  
Hotel Reception  
Special Entertainment

Magnolia  
Sensawell & Breckinridge  
New Stage Theatre

## Friday, September 25

8:00 - 4:00  
8:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.  
10:15 - 11:30 a.m.  
11:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.  
2:15 - 3:15 p.m.  
3:30 - 4:15 p.m.  
4:30 - 5:15 p.m.  
5:15 - 8:00 p.m.  
8:00 p.m.

Registration  
Exhibits and Swap Shop  
Concurrent Workshops I  
General Session  
Lunch  
Annual Business Meeting  
Concurrent Workshops II  
Concurrent Workshops III  
Concurrent Workshops IV  
Dinner  
Readings

Lobby/Ballroom I & II  
Breckinridge  
Assigned Rooms  
Ballroom I & II  
On Your Own  
Ballroom I & II  
Assigned Rooms  
Assigned Rooms  
Assigned Rooms  
On Your Own  
Hampton

## Saturday, September 26

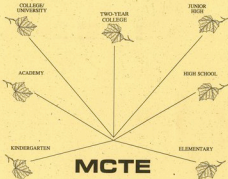
8:00 - 12:00 noon  
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.  
9:15 - 10:15 a.m.  
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Registration  
Exhibits & Swap Shop  
Concurrent Workshops V  
Concurrent Workshops VI  
Concurrent Workshops VII  
Luncheon

Lobby/Ballroom I & II  
Breckinridge  
Assigned Rooms  
Assigned Rooms  
Assigned Rooms  
Ballroom I & II

\* Special Entertainment: New Stage Theatre is presenting ROMANCE, ROMANCE! on Thursday and Friday nights at 7:00 p.m. Persons wishing to attend may purchase tickets at the Theatre.

File Publications



NETWORKING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH COLLEGE

## 1992 ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

September 24-26, 1992

Edison Walthall Hotel  
Jackson, Mississippi



\$2.50

# MISSISSIPPI

TRAVEL GUIDE

*Pilgrimages, Casinos and Much, Much More*  
*Spring/Summer 1995*



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**SPECIAL VIEW:** St. Mary Catholic Church from the park.

## June in Natchez

**J**une in Natchez holds appeal for intellects and fun-lovers alike, with a variety of activities.

In the beginning of the month, the fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration will bring some of the most renowned literary figures in the nation and world to this town to discuss "The Three R's: Readin', 'Riting and the River."

In addition to more than 15 fascinating lectures on a variety of topics, the celebration will include a symphony concert, tours of historic area houses and buildings, free exhibits, tours of the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture Museum and a program by world-famous humorist Jerry Clower.

For two weekends this month, some of the city's most spectacular Victorian houses will be open for a unique tour of a sometimes forgotten period in Natchez's history. The house tours offer a rare peek at the Victorian grandeur offered here.

As the end of the month nears, the annual Great Steamboat Race makes its annual stop in the Miss-Lou for the traditional Fuzzy Day contest — always a fun-filled event.

## Inside

**P**ages 6 and 7 take you on a walking tour of historic Natchez — a great way to capture the old town charm and to peek into some of the South's prettiest gardens.

**P**ages 4 and 5: A year-around calendar of events.

# Tourists guide to ... Historic Natchez

June 1993

A monthly reader service of The Natchez Democrat

Natchez, Miss.



The Natchez Democrat/Barbara Girard Kallen

**JUNE PERFORMER:** Popular humorist Jerry Clower will entertain during the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration.

Official guide of the Natchez Visitors and Convention Bureau, Natchez Heritage Tours and the Natchez Chamber of Commerce

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**"Oh, honey,"** Jerry Clower is wiping his brow this warm May morning, remembering one of the wildest nights of his life. It happened long ago on one of those two hundred nights of the year he spends away from his beloved Mississippi home. He was performing in Sain Paul, Miss., and it was surreal.

"I ain't never been in a place in my life before now," he says. "And when they told me it was going to get down to thirty below zero, well, honey, I got in that hotel and sleep BETWEEN these mattresses!"

It's a typical Clower story, grounded in actual event and universal in its appeal. But unlike it is not, Clower is quick to point out that he's a humorist, not a comedian.

"I don't tell funny stories," he says. "I tell stories funny. I think I've proven that the funniest things in the world actually happened."

"Why just last week," he laughs, "I was standing on the corner of the street, right here in Liberty, Mississippi, and this funeral came by. I was there with some other men, folk and one tune to the other in the funeral gone by and says, 'Who died?' The other fellow looks back at the first and says, 'The one in the first row.' " Clower crows with laughter at the memory. "I'll tell you what the key to my success is," he says. "God has given the strength talent to be funny without being vulgar."

Jerry Clower laughs himself as he goes on to say that, generally speaking, he's a good old boy that generally goes down, worked hard and accomplished something, and

"I don't tell funny stories, I tell stories funny. I think I've proven that the funniest things in the world actually happened."

— Jerry Clower

wishes to do it God's way.

"And I'll tell you what the secret of being a humorist is," he says. "It's the talent to remember."

Not all of Clower's stories are humorous. His earliest memory, documented on other thirty seconds of constant pondering, is of a funeral he attended when he was five years old. "They made the mistake of letting me see my grandmother in the coffin," he says.

"She had made me tea-sacks with her own hands, and when I saw her there in that coffin with her hands folded — well, for thirty years I couldn't get it out of my mind. The pastor to hold his hands over his chest 'I couldn't go to bed at night and hold my hands like this in my grandmother's face.'"

That story, of course, is not typical Clower material. Most of his stories are deftly crafted from happier memories, material mined from the experience of being born outside Liberty "not a mile from here, in the question of a crowd!" Clower's natural father donated his teenage wife and two babies contracting the great depression. Clower's family worked their way out of that, and, after graduation from high school, Jerry went off to World War II.

"I graduated one day and walked the street," Clower says, speaking of his South

Pacific experiences abroad on aircraft carrier. "I will never forget those Kamikaze planes."

After Clower came home, "My mama said, 'Baby, what you gonna do with the rest of your life?' " "I said, Mama, I want to be a 4-4 Club agent and go into eye-busines."

Clower went to Mississippi State where he played football with Natchezian Joe Perkinson and roomed with Joe Searo. After graduation he married his childhood sweetheart, Rosemarie White, introduced her and three daughters, and worked several years selling real estate. "I backed out of this show business," he says. "I found I could sell more real estate if I was funny."

A friend heard some of his stories, took a tape to RCA Record Company, and it was produced as Clower's first hit, "Jerry Clower from Yazoo City, Mississippi, Talkin'."

Twenty-four records and four books later, Clower is the best known country humorist in America. "My 25th record comes out in July," he says. "I told 'em, just call it 25025." "I'll feature the same kind of stories Clower in human form."

Typical of Clower's mixed material is a story he calls "The Glory Hole," and it's on

"We and Missal Mathews got up together," he says. "We'd go down in a hole in the Amite River we called the baptizing hole, the Glory Hole. We'd play at church there, have baptizing service. And we was twenty-five Baptists in one Methodist, so we'd get into arguments about the correct way to baptize. Well, one day Sam comes Mathews, finding this goat on a branch. He wanted to baptize that goat. Now if you ever tried to put a goat in water you know what trouble we was in. We was tryin' to put that goat's head under water, and the goat was sayin', 'Do-a-a-a!' Just 'kinkin' on and kinkin' on with his horns. Well, after a while this was just too much trouble, and Mathews wipes the blood out of the corner of his eye and says, 'Look, let's just sprinkle him and let him go to hell.'"

But Clower's material changed over the years? "Well, yes," Clower says. "Things that happen in the neighborhood are different now. Back when I was growing up you knew what was main play games were? Well, now that the most popular game is basketball, and the most popular player is Albert Johnson, that was rich. When we had the most popular third grade to make wonder wheels with was left. These toys they have now — wags — " he shakes his head in disbelief.

But the material old and new is still there. Clower is looking forward to appearing in Natchez for the Co-Ed's Literary Festival this spring. He has no idea what stories he'll tell. "I don't prepare anything," he says. "All I know is that I'm in the Saturday

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## Annual literary celebration will salute Mississippi River

**T**he biennial annual Natchez Literary Celebration, June 2-4, will present Jerry Clower on stage in a special event at 7 p.m. on June 3 at the City Auditorium.

In addition, the celebration will include lectures, films, entertainments, concerts, meals and special events relating the Mississippi River and its influence on literature, history and culture of Natchez and the Lower Mississippi River Valley.

The event, titled "The Town It's Bigger, Bigger, and the River," is sponsored by Copeland-Lewis Community College and the Natchez National Historical Park and Natchez Trace Parkway.

Free events include:

■ "Flows and Phases of the River," a guided walking tour along the Natchez Mall by national park ranger, June 2-4.

■ "The Mighty Mississippi," an exhibit of winning entries in a regional art contest at Judge George W. Armstrong Library, June 2-4.

■ "Scrambling in Style," a photograph exhibit at Historic Jefferson College by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, June 2-4.

■ "The Natchez Trace," an exhibit at the City Auditorium by the Natchez Trace Parkway, June 2-4.

■ "The Historic Natchez Celebration," an exhibit of reproduction furniture and accessories at

the Historic Natchez Foundation on South Commerce Street, June 2-4.

■ "Afro-American Life in Natchez," an exhibit at the Natchez Afro-American Museum by the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture, June 3.

■ Living history reconstruction of the Union Army's occupation of Natchez, 1862-65, on the grounds of Malone, June 2-4.

Lectures begin on June 2 and continue through June 3 at the City Auditorium. All paid presentations except for the June 3 presentation at 7 p.m. are open on a space-available basis for a registration fee of \$1 a day to \$20 for all three days. Lectures are financially

assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Tickets for all events are available at Natchez Box Office, P.O. Box 1284 in Natchez. The telephone number at Natchez Box Office is 444-0153.

Lectures are as follows:

■ "The Heritage of the Mississippi River," by John Montague, leader of the Mississippi River Heritage Committee Project of the U.S. Department of the Interior, June 2, 11:30 p.m.

■ "Spirituality, Franchisement and the Importance of the Mississippi River, 1818-1763," by Dr. William S. Coker, professor of history emeritus at the University of West

Florida in Pensacola, June 2, 2:45 p.m.

■ "Language without Labels: Hypocrite, Fantasy and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi," by Dr. Charles Lowrey, chairman of the department of history at Mississippi State University, June 3, 9:30 a.m.

■ "Ancient Bury and the Great Conspiracy on the Mississippi River," by Dr. Robert V. Remick, professor of history at the University of Illinois in Chicago, June 3, 10 a.m.

■ "From the Mississippi River to the River Trade: The Rich River and Natchez," by Dr. Gerald D. Starnes, professor of history at the University of Mississippi in See RIVER, Page 42

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A view of Natchez along the Mississippi River showing the bridge, Natchez-Under-the-Hill and the Historic District of the area. Photo courtesy of the Lady Luck.

## THE THREE R'S --- READIN', RITIN' AND THE RIVER THE NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

by Anne Butler

The romance of *Of Man River* down through the ages is the unifying theme of this year's Natchez Literary Celebration, a week-long affirmation of the river's impact on the heritage and culture of Natchez and the entire Lower Mississippi River Valley.

Set in Natchez from June 2 through June 6, this year's gathering features everything from music to movies, from history to relishing humor, from poetry to preservation, and highlights a number of nationally known personalities like authors Willie Morris, Ernest Gaines, and homegrown storyteller Jerry Clower.

Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College with the National Park Service's Natchez Historical Park and the Natchez Trace Parkway, the conference is chaired as usual by a proven pair of popular faculty members from the college, the very capable Carolyn Vance Smith and Becky Junkin Nevill, in cooperation with Gerald Gaumer, Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services for the historical park. The Honorable William F. Winter, former governor and head of the board of trustees for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, will again serve as director of proceedings.


Most activities take place in the Natchez Municipal Auditorium on Jefferson Street. Wednesday's activities include a welcome by the president of Copiah-Lincoln, and lectures on "The Heritage of the Mississippi River" by John Hooser, who leads the US Department of Interior's Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Project, and "Spaniards, Frenchmen and Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1519 - 1763" by Dr. William Colver of the University of West Florida. The premiere of a Mississippi Educational Television documentary called "Return to the River" is followed by a gala reception at Stanton Hall and dinner at the Carriage House.

On Thursday, the lectures include "Language Without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi" by Dr. Charles Lowery of Mississippi State, "Aaron Burr and the Great Conspiracy on the Mississippi River" by eminent historian Dr. Robert V. Remini of the University of Chicago, "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez" by Dr. David Sansing of the University of Mississippi, and "The Mississippi River and the Civil War" by US Department of the Interior historian Terrence Winschel of Vicksburg National Military Park.

Thursday also features a showing of the movie "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and related discussion led by Dr. Charles Vahlkamp of Centre College, and Thursday evening's reception at the Ramada Hillsop honors top humanities scholars from the state's public two-year colleges. On Friday Dr. Thomas Gandy of Natchez shares his extensive knowledge and unmatched collection of historic photographs in the steamboatin' session called "The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mud, Water, Boats and Steam." Other lecture topics include "Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices" by Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin of Cambridge University in England, "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation" by Hillary Jacques Knight III of Tusculoo College, and "The Rivers in My Life" by native son and nationally recognized author Willie Morris. There will be a showing of the movie based on Morris' *Good Ol' Boy*.

Friday also features a Victorian luncheon at Magnolia Hall and an evening concert of river-related selections by the Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra.

On Saturday Dr. Peggy Preshaw of LSU speaks on "Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart" followed by Ms. Spencer herself. "Port Claiborne: A Reading with Commentary." Writer Ernest Gaines of the University of Southwestern Louisiana speaks to the topic "Of Men and Rivers," followed by a showing of the movie based on his own poignant novel, *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*.



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JUNE 2-6, 1993  
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## The Three R's:



### Lectures and Presentations

- **Mr. John Hoesterey**, Historian, National Park Service, Denver: *The Heritage of the Mississippi River*
- **Dr. William S. Coker**, Historian, University of West Florida: *Spaniards, Frenchmen, and Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1519-1763*
- **Dr. Charles Lowery**, Historian, Mississippi State University: *Language Without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy, and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi*
- **Dr. Robert V. Remini**, Historian, University of Illinois, Chicago: *Aaron Burr and the Great Conspiracy on the Mississippi River*
- **Dr. David G. Sansing**, Historian, University of Mississippi: *From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez*
- **Mr. Terrence Winschel**, Historian, National Park Service, Vicksburg, Mississippi: *The Mississippi River and the Civil War*
- **Dr. Charles G. Vahlkamp**, Film Expert, Centre College, Danville, Kentucky: *Discussions of Three Films: "Huck Finn," "Good Old Boy," and "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman"*
- **Dr. Thomas H. Gandy**, Historian, Natchez, Mississippi: *The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mud, Water, Boats, and Steam*
- **Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin**, Scholar, Cambridge University, Cambridge, England: *Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices*
- **Mr. Hillery Jacque Knight III**, Poet, Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, Mississippi: *The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation*
- **Mr. Willie Morris**, Author, Jackson, Mississippi: *The Rivers in My Life*
- **Dr. Peggy W. Preshaw**, Scholar, Louisiana State University: *Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart*
- **Ms. Elizabeth Spencer**, Author, University of North Carolina: *Port Claiborne: A Reading with Commentary*
- **Mr. Ernest Gaines**, Author, University of Southwestern Louisiana: *Of Men and Rivers*
- **Dr. William Ferris**, Scholar, University of Mississippi: *Storytelling Along the River Road*
- **Mr. Jerry Clower**, Humorist and Author, Liberty, Mississippi: *Stories from Home*



### Other Celebration Events

Tours of historic homes and sites near the river

Premiere of Mississippi ETV's *Return to the River*

Film festival: *Huck Finn*, *Good Old Boy*, and *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*

Pops concert by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra

Re-enactment of the Civil War Union occupation of Natchez

Writing workshops and booksigning

Exhibits, entertainments, meals, and parties

\$110 for full package • \$20 for lectures only • Other events from \$5

For tickets, call Natchez Box Office 1-800-862-3259 or (601) 445-0353

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Presented by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the National Park Service's Natchez National Historical Park and Natchez Trace Parkway

Program partially funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council and the Mississippi Arts Commission

**Friday, February 26**  
 Concurrent Sessions 44 cont. from previous page  
 8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

**28 Basic Smith Room**  
**Teaching the Rhetoric of Reading in the Composition Classroom**  
 Alan Jenkins, Delta State CC (GA)  
 Presents how the recognition and identification of rhetorical strategies in reading materials aids the student in his own writing.  
 Presenter: Jeanine Dobson, Greenville Technical CC (SC)  
 Recorder: Rita Quillen, Northeast State TCC (TN)

**9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.**  
**Concurrent Sessions 41**

**14 Chemical Room**  
**Surveying British Literature Via Videotape**  
 Sue Grady, Greenville Technical CC (SC)  
 Presents how to plan and implement a video-tape course.  
 Presenter: Betty Walden, Jefferson CC (MO)  
 Recorder: Linda Knight, York Technical CC (SC)

**28 Coatsfield Room**  
**Letting the Inmates Run the Asylum: Restructuring Basic Writing**  
 Ruth Morris, Greenville Technical CC (SC)  
 Presents a redesign of basic writing courses to promote student success.  
 Presenter: Andrea Hallford, Paducah CC (KY)  
 Recorder: Linda Doran, Tennessee Board of Regents (TN)

**32 Continental Room**  
**Reaching Adults in the Writing Classroom: The Natural Connections between Composition and Adult Learning Theories**  
 Susan Barth, Vanderbilt U (TN)  
 Presents anthropology as a strategy for teaching non-traditional students.  
 Presenter: Joyce Hancock, Jefferson CC (MO)  
 Recorder: William G. Pennington, East Georgia CC (GA)

**32 West Room**  
**Writing Portfolio: Placement, Assessment, and Definition of Basic Writer**  
 Tom Mulholland, University of South Carolina (SC)  
 Presents the effectiveness of portfolios versus impromptu essays in placement instruments.  
 Presenter: Vernon Bull, Chattanooga State TCC (TN)  
 Recorder: Dorothy Whitehead, Northeast State TCC (TN)

**32 Basic Smith Room**  
**A New Course: Modern Novels in English Composition**  
 Martha Hughes, East Georgia CC (GA)  
 Presents the rationale for incorporating contemporary literature into freshman composition classes.  
 Presenter: Diana Bach, Columbia State CC (TN)  
 Recorder: William Milson, Northeast State TCC (TN)

**9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**  
**Refreshment Break**  
 Chickamauga Room

**CONVERSATIONS with ... TSA**

**11:15 a.m. - 12:00 noon**  
**Concurrent Sessions 44**

**44 Chemical Room**  
**Anthropology: Theoretical, The Practice-oriented**  
**Introduction**  
 Linda Morris, Greenville Technical CC (SC)  
 Presents an overview of this interdisciplinary known history, historical, and cultural connections.  
 Presenter: Bruce West, Wayne Methodist CC (TN)  
 Recorder: Charles McDowell, Piedmont Technical CC (NC)

**48 Coatsfield Room**  
**Exploring the World: New Directions in Developmental Writing**  
 Bill Pomeroy, Piedmont Virginia CC (VA)  
 Presents a method for incorporating international and intellectual activities in the developmental classroom.

**From Renaissance to Postmodern: A Literary Excursion**  
 Lanyssa Turner, Piedmont Virginia CC (VA)  
 Presents and explores connections between Harlem Renaissance work and contemporary African and Caribbean work.  
 Presenter: Joseph Sherratt, State Technical Institute (TN)  
 Recorder: David Murphy, Norfolk CC (NC)

**42 Continental Room**  
**Responding Effectively to Student Writing**  
 Alan L. Hunt, Eastern Kentucky U (KY)  
 Carol Hunt, Lexington CC (KY)  
 Presents several points of methods for using conferences, computer-assisted responses, audio cassette tapes, peer response, and written comments.  
 Presenter: Scott Douglas, Chattanooga State TCC (TN)  
 Recorder: Susan Barth, Vanderbilt U (TN)

**42 West Room**  
**M&M's: They're Not Just for Breakfast Anymore: A Series of Report Writing Assignments (Really)**  
 Mary Merrill, Forsyth TCC (NC)  
 Presents a method for using M&M's as data for a series of business report writing assignments that reinforce critical thinking skills.  
 Presenter: Tamara Butler, Northeast State Tech CC (TN)  
 Recorder: Jean Russo, Peace CC (NC)

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**Friday, February 26 cont.**  
 Concurrent Sessions 44 cont. from previous page

**48 Basic Smith Room**  
**Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" & Symbolic Portrayal of a Woman's Arrested Development**  
 Thelma Hall, Shuster CC (GA)  
 Presents an examination of a finely veiled autobiographical study of a woman trapped in a society that undervalued the humanity of women.  
 Presenter: Jo Ann Buck, Guilford Tech CC (NC)  
 Recorder: Bill Miller, Chattanooga State TCC (TN)

**12:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.**  
**Annual Luncheon**  
 Silver Ballroom

**Midcourse**  
 Don Andrews, Chattanooga State TCC (TN)  
 Otis Floyd, Chancellor, Tennessee Board of Regents  
 Linda Catasacus, President, Chattanooga State TCC

**Innovation**  
 Scott Douglas, Chattanooga State TCC (TN)

**Dona Priess**  
 Linda Reeves, Chattanooga State TCC (TN)

**Cowan Award**  
 Dick Harrington, Piedmont Virginia CC (VA)

**Introduction of Speaker**  
 Charles Mulvan, Chattanooga State TCC (TN)

**Speaker**  
 John Stigall, Post-in-Residence,  
 Chattanooga State Technical CC (TN)

**Announcements**  
 Don Andrews

**2:30 pm. - 3:15 pm.**  
**Concurrent Sessions 41**

**14 Chemical Room**  
**An Image of Excellence**  
 Cynthia Malden, Volunteer State CC (TN)  
 Presents three narratives as detailed pictures of the struggle for freedom and literacy, and the link between the two.  
 Presenter: Dick Guerin, Auburn U (AL)  
 Recorder: Maribela Little, Pellissippi State TCC (TN)

**32 Coatsfield Room**  
**Imagination and the Self: Journals in the Basic Writing Class**  
 Gary Vaughn, U of Cincinnati (OH)  
 Presents creative use of journals in the basic writing class to put discouraged writers to explore their imaginations, discover their voices, and develop their sense of self.  
 Presenter: Maggie Jenkins, Pellissippi State TCC (TN)  
 Recorder: Kit Adkins, Piedmont CC (NC)

**32 Continental Room**  
**Revitalizing the Research Paper**  
 Elaine Hughes, Jay Johnston, Diana Roberts Worrester  
 Nazara CC (NY)  
 Presents an approach to the research paper which guides students through a series of research assignments in a field of their own choosing.  
 Presenter: Mingying Wang, Northeast State TCC (TN)  
 Recorder: Fred Ramsey, Thomas Nelson CC (VA)

**32 West Room**  
**Honors English in the Two-year College**  
 Mark Reynolds, Jefferson Davis CC (AL)  
 Jean Bridges, East Georgia CC (GA)  
 Presents discussions of several approaches to Honors Programs in general, and describes in-depth Honors English Programs at two campuses.  
 Presenter: Janet H. Hobbs, Wake TCC (NC)  
 Recorder: Cynthia Catasacus, Chattanooga State TCC (TN)

**32 Basic Smith Room**  
**Teaching a Cat to Fish or Second Hand Rose**  
 Nancy Dykes, Capehart-Lincoln CC (MS)  
 John Lurie Green, Capehart-Lincoln CC (MS)  
 Presents students' experiences with composing, revising, and editing on the word processing.  
 Presenter: Thelma Hall, Shuster College (GA)  
 Recorder: Marilyn Bull, Chattanooga State TCC (TN)

**3:15 p.m.**  
**Refreshment Break**  
 Chickamauga Room

**3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions 44**

**14 Chemical Room**  
**Selling Their Own Mythology: How Robert Frost's Poems Work**  
 Bob Insatun, Armstrong State CC (GA)  
 Presents a discussion of mythology as a device of motivation in Frost's poetry, helping the reader remember something he didn't realize he knew.  
 Presenter: Madeline Fleming, Chattanooga State TCC (TN)  
 Recorder: Chris Perkins, Indiana TC (SC)

# Mississippi Writers Association

Vol 1 No 1

Winnfred Smith, Editor

June 1993

## Noteworthy Contents

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## Annual Conference

### 6th Annual Mississippi Writers Conference is June 6

"Will D. Campbell, author of Brother of A Dragonfly, and Providence, and eight other titles, will be the featured speaker at the 6th annual Mississippi Writers Conference. The conference will be held Sunday, June 6th, in Natchez", according to Jo Barksdale, President of the Mississippi Writers Association.

"Our regular meetings are held in Jackson, Barksdale says, "But this year we're moving our annual conference to Natchez as a adjunct to the Natchez Literary Celebration. We want people to be able to take advantage of both programs."

"The Natchez Literary Celebration's title this year was also a natural for the Mississippi Writers Association. The Three R's: Readin, Riting, and the River, is about the contributions that Mississippi writers' have, and are still, making to literature. The MWA's goal is to nurture and

## Letter from the Editor

I suppose you noticed you've missed a newsletter or two lately. We certainly noticed it, and offer our apologies. We've been doing a little reorganizing but more on that later. I also suppose you're wondering who I am, so let's get that out of the way. My name is Winnfred Smith, I'm a supervisor in the Information Services Quality Assurance area with Vickers, Inc. here in Jackson. My writing experience is business documents and newsletter articles, with hopes of more fun stuff in the future. In the mean time, I've assumed the responsibility as Editor of this Newsletter. But enough about me...

We plan a new look for the Newsletter. Along with a different face, we plan informative articles, announcements of coming events and more.

There's a lot of things in the works for the Mississippi Writers Association (MWA). Details of those events can be found in this and the coming issues. This month we will be focusing primarily on the Annual Literary Conference in Natchez in June.

Preparing newsletter content is difficult at best so if there is something you specifically want to see included or perhaps you have an article yourself, let me or Jo Barksdale know.

Thanks and I hope to hear from you.

Winnfred



"To Nurture & Educate Writers"

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# NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION



presents








## *Spain Comes to Natchez*

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-  Tours of 18th-century Spanish houses
-  Re-enactment of Spanish military regiments encamped at Natchez
-  Tales of Spanish Natchez for children by international storyteller
-  Exhibits of artifacts, paintings, and books about 18th-century Natchez
-  Lavish parties and meals in Spanish-era houses
-  Grande finale, "An Evening at Concord," a living history dinner, program, and concert

• • • • •

Reservations are required for most events.

Prices range from \$5 per day (for lectures only) up to \$80 for three days of lectures, house tours, three meals, parties, and special events.

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Call 1-800-647-6724 or (601) 442-9111 or write  
Natchez Literary Celebration  
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